

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SCEM-02

SCI-06 INT-08 DRC-01 /140 W  
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R 110949Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6001

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: NXA

TAGS: ETRN, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: AVIATION FUEL SHORTAGE

REF: PARIS 31983

SUMMARY: IN LETTER TO PANAM AIR FRANCE CRITICIZES "HESITANCY" OF USG IN ELABORATING FUEL POLICY CAPABLE OF OVERCOMING AIR FRANCE REFUELING PROBLEMS IN US. AIR FRANCE DIRECTOR HAS "FEELING"EUROPEANS MAY BE READYING RECIPROCAL REDUCTION THAT WOULD AFFECT US CARRIERS. SINCE GOF HAS ORDERED 10 PERCENT REDUCTION IN FUEL CONSUMPTION OF FRENCH CARRIERS, WE SUSPECT GOF MGHT NOW FIND IT DIFFICULT AVOID SIMILAR CUTBACK IN REFUELING OF FOREIGN CARRIERS NOTWITHSTANDING CONTINUED ABSENCE OF AVIATION FUEL SHORTAGE IN FRANCE. OR GOF MIGHT ENVISAGE THREAT OF SUCH ACTION AS LEVERAGE FOR TRYING IMPROVE AIR FRANCE REFUELING SITUATIN IN US.

1. RAUSHENPLAT OF PANAM HAS SENT US COPY OF LETTER HE RECEIVED JAN. 9 FROM PIERRE COT, DIRECTOR GENERAL AIR FRANCE, IN REPLY PANAM LETTER RE FUEL SHORTAGE IN US (REFTEL).

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COT EXPRESSES SURPRISE OVER WHAT HE CONSIDERS TO BE UN-

CHARACTERISTIC HESITANCY OF USG IN COMING UP WITH SOUND FUEL POLICY, FOR AIR FRANCE CONTINUES ENCOUNTER SAME DIFFICULTIES AS HERETOFORE IN REFUELING AT ANCHORAGE, LOS ANGELES AND MIAMI. OTHER EUROPEAN CARRIERS ENCOUNTERING PROBLEMS AT OTHER US AIRPORTS. COT WRITES THT HE IS DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER SITUATION BECAUSE HE HAS FEELING EUROPEANS ARE PREPARING RETAILIATE WITH RECIPROCAL MEASURES. WOULD BE REGRETTABLE IF RATIONING WAR ENSUED AND "PANAM'S NORMAL SUPPLY IN PARIS WERE REDUCED BY 10 PERCENT ON GROUNDS AIR FRNCE IS PLACED IN THAT SITUATION IN ANCHORAGE." COT CONCLUDES WITH REFERENCE TO "VIOLENT ATTACK LAUNCHED THIS SUBJECT" BY BRITISH AIRWAYS AND EXPRESSES HOPE THAT JOINT EFFORTS WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE "TO BRING A LITTLE REASON T PREVAIL IN THIS DEPLORABLE STATE OF AFFAIRS." (COPY OF COT LETTER POUCHED EB/AVP.)

2. ZWL FRANCE REFUELING PROBLEM IN ANCHORAGE WAS MENTIONED TO EMBASSY JAN. 9 BY BESSON, CARRIER'S DIRECTOR FOR EQUIPMENT, WHO EXPRESSED DISBELIEF CHEVRON COULD NOT PERFROM BETTER. IN SUPPORT OF AIR FRANCE CASE HE SAID AIR FRANCE HELPING ALLEVIATE US SHORTAGE BY CARRYING FUEL IN EXCESS OF NEEDS IN ORDER LIMIT REFUELING IN US. BESSON CONFIRMED THERE IS STILL NO SHORTAE AVIATION FUEL IN FRANCE. (HE ALSO INDICATED THAT FUEL PRICES WILL BE FOUR TIMES HIGHER IN NEW CONTRACTS AIR FRANCE NOW NEGOTIATING WITH ITS SUPPLIERS, WHICH WILL MEAN 18 PERCENT INCREASE IN OPERATING COSTS.)

3. DEPT. WILL RECALL (PARIS 31844) THAT GOF HAD ORDERED 10 PERCENT REDUCTION IN FUEL CONSUMPTION FRENCH CARRIERS. WHILE MEASURES TO BE INTRODUCED BY AIR FRANCE AND UTA HAVE NOT YET BEEN FORMALLY ANNOUNCED, EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION OF AIR FRANCE HA REVEALED TO PRESS, ALONG WITH EXPRESSION OF CONCERN OVER COMPANY'S DEVELOPMENT, THAT 25,000 HOURS FLYING TIME WILL BE TRIMMED FROM AIR FRANCE SCHEDULES IN 1974 AND HIRING OF NEW FLIGHT AND GROUND PERSONNEL WILL BE SUSPENDED. PRESS REPORTS SGACHAS APPROVED AIR INTER PROGRAM FOR ELIMINATION 94 DOMESTIC FLIGHTS PER WEEK AND USE SMALLER AIRCRAFT ON CERTAIN ROUTES. (COMMENT: AIR INTER AS PURELY DOMESTIC CARRIER OF COURSE DOES NOT HAVE REFUELING PROBLEMS IN ABSENCE OF AVIATION FUEL SHORTAE IN FRANCE. REDUCTION IN ITS FUEL CONSUMPTION THUS SEEMS TO BE PART LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SYMBOLIC, CIVIC GESTURE AND PART COST-CUTTING. LE MONDE SUSPECTS AIR INTER HAS USED FUEL CRISIS AS PRETEXT TO DROP SEVERAL UNECONOMIC SERVICES.)

4. IN RESPONSE EMBASSY COMMUNICATION PURSUANT STATE 248152 INSTRUCTION, FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS NOT GIVEN ASSURANCES US CARRIERS' REQUIREMENTS WILL BE MET ON SAME BASIS AS THOSE OF NATIONAL CARRIER. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM FOREIGN MINISRY

MERELY INDICATED THAT FEO ANNOUNCEMENT RE AVAILABILITY  
MILITARY JET FUEL WAS BEING BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF TRANSPORT  
MINISTRY, AIR FRANCE AND UTA AND THAT EMBASSY WOULD BE ADVISED  
EVENTUALLY OF REACTION FRENCH AUTHORITIES.

5. COMMENT: COT LETTER MAY BE TIPOFF THAT GOF -- PERHAPS  
IN CONCERT WITH OTHER EUROPEAN GOVTS -- COULD BE PLANNING  
TO INTRODUCE 10 PERCENT REDUCTION IN REFUELING OF FOREIGN  
CARRIERS. WOULD SEM DIFFICULT FOR GOF TO DEFEND 10 PERCENT  
REDUCTION IN FUEL CONSUMPTION OF FRENCH CARRIERS WHILE  
PERMITTING UNRESTRICTED REFUELING IN FRANCE BY FOREIGN  
CARRIERS, OR FOR US TO ATTACK "RECIPROCAL" ACTION IF NON-  
DICRIMINATORY INCLUDING ITS APPLICATION TO FRENCH INTERNATIONAL  
CARRIERS. TOO, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT GOF MIGHT SIMPLY ENVISAGE  
THREAT OF SUCH ACTION AGAINST PANAM AND TWA AS LEVERAGE FOR  
TRYING TO OBTAIN IMPROVEMENT IN AIR FRANCE REFUELING IN S.  
STONE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SUPPLIES, CIVIL AVIATION, CONSERVATION, JET FUEL, EMERGENCY PLANNING  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 JAN 1974  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Document Number:** 1974PARIS00856  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CIVAIR: AVIATION FUEL SHORTAGE  
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**Type:** TE  
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